

REMARKS

I. Formal Matters. Claims 14-34 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1-13 were previously cancelled. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication that claims 16-24, 27-31 and 34 are allowed.

II. Claims. Claims 14, 15, 25, 26, 32 and 33 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being allegedly obvious over *Yokoyama et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,303,344) in view of *Albal et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 4,821,265) and *Stoner et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 6,052,383).

Claims 14 and 25. *Yokoyama, Albal* and *Stoner* neither individually, nor in combination, teach or suggest a header portion written into a shared memory by a lower layer processing portion at a time of packet data reception, and read from shared memory by the lower layer processing portion at a time of packet data transmission, wherein the header portion is used for processing by a higher layer processing portion.

In contrast, Applicant claims a packet processing apparatus (claim 14) and a packet exchange (claim 25) comprising multiple layers, wherein a header portion is written by a lower layer processing portion at a time of packet data reception into a shared memory, and read from the shared memory by the lower layer processing portion at the time of packet data transmission, wherein the header portion is used for processing by a higher layer processing portion. At least for failing to teach or suggest a header portion, written by a lower layer processing portion at a

time of packet data reception into a shared memory, and read from the shared memory by the lower layer processing portion at the time of packet data transmission, wherein the header portion is used for processing by a higher layer processing portion, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 14 and 25 as being allegedly obvious over *Yokoyama* in view of *Albal* and *Stoner* should be withdrawn.

Claims 15 and 26. *Yokoyama*, *Albal* and *Stoner* neither individually, nor in combination, teach or suggest a header portion written to a shared memory, by a layer 2 processing portion as a data link layer at a time of the packet data reception, and read from shared memory by the layer 2 processing portion at a time of the packet data transmission, wherein the header portion is used for processing by a layer 3 processing portion.

In contrast, Applicant claims a packet processing apparatus (claim 15) and a packet exchange (claim 26), wherein a header portion is written to shared memory by a layer 2 processing portion as a data link layer at a time of packet data reception, and read from shared memory by the layer 2 processing portion at a time of packet data transmission, wherein the header portion is used for processing by a layer 3 processing portion. At least for failing to teach or suggest a header portion written to shared memory by a layer 2 processing portion as a data link layer at a time of the packet data reception, and read from the shared memory by the layer 2 processing portion at a time of the packet data transmission, wherein the header portion is used

for processing by a layer 3 processing portion, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 15 and 26 as being allegedly obvious over *Yokoyama* in view of *Albal* and *Stoner* should be withdrawn.

Claim 32. *Yokoyama*, *Albal* and *Stoner* neither individually, nor in combination, teach or suggest a processor, connected to a layer 2 processing portion and a layer 3 processing portion, for executing a process of a layer higher than layer 3. In contrast, Applicant claims, "...a processor, connected to a layer 2 processing portion and a layer 3 processing portion, for executing a process of a layer higher than layer 3" (claim 32). At least for failing to teach or suggest the processor, connected to processing portions of layers 2 and 3, for executing a process of a layer higher than layer 3, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 32 as being allegedly obvious over *Yokoyama* in view of *Albal* and *Stoner* should be withdrawn.

Claim 33 has been amended to incorporate the allowable subject matter of original dependent claim 3 (OA dated July 9, 2004) and the subject matter of original independent claim 2 (where claim 3 depended from claim 2). Further, neither *Yokoyama*, *Albal* nor *Stoner* teaches or suggests a layer 2 reception processing portion for storing only a field necessary for layer 3 or a higher layer to said packet memory and said shared memory. In contrast, Applicant claims, "...a layer 2 reception processing portion for storing only a field necessary for layer 3 or a higher layer to said packet memory and said shared memory" (claim 33). A proper 35 U.S.C. §103(a) obviousness rejection teaches or suggests each and every element of the rejected claim. At least for failing to teach or suggest the layer 2 reception processing portion for storing only a field

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.111
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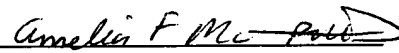
necessary for a higher layer, the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claim 33 as being allegedly obvious over *Yokoyama* in view of *Albal* and *Stoner* should be withdrawn.

In view of the preceding amendments and remarks, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue that the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephonic interview, he is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees (except the Issue/Publication Fees) to our Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860


Amelia F. Morani, Ph.D.
Registration No. 52,049

WASHINGTON OFFICE

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